

Meeting April 19, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:01pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tabita, Tate, Tucholski and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruskowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of April 5, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia asked what action we are taking regarding the carport that fell down at 18 Eagle Street. The carport was built on a Borough right-of-way. The owner is deceased and the property is now owned by Wells Fargo Bank. We have been unsuccessful in getting them to remove the carport. It is causing an unsafe situation and Mayor Lucia feels that the Borough should remove it. Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and Mr. Fontanazza will meet with Councilman Tucholski to decide what to do. A discussion ensued regarding what steps the Borough should take and what liability we have to remove the carport.

Mr. Landy brought up the problem of contacting a bank or lien holder when a property has been taken over. It is a very difficult process. Mr. Landy said he spoke to a real estate agent and she told him that municipalities should require those properties to be registered.

Mayor Lucia said that Section 1029 of the Borough Code says that as Mayor he has the power and responsibility to preserve order in the Borough and to remove nuisances. Mayor Lucia said he will take the responsibility to have the carport torn down and hauled away.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to have the Street Department tear down and remove the carport at 18 Eagle Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-2. Councilman Tabita and Councilwoman Stevenson voted no.

Mayor Lucia said he received a request from George D'Amato, R.O.C.K. Ministries, 418 Pritts Way, Mount Pleasant, PA to use the Gazebo to hold a benefit. Council agreed that according to the ordinance it would not be possible to give them permission to use the Gazebo, but they could get a permit for the Veterans Park Freedom of Speech Area or one of the parks in the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to have the Recreation Committee meet with R.O.C.K. Ministries to offer them the use of the Veterans Park Freedom of Speech Area or one of the other parks in the Borough to R.O.C.K. Ministries to hold a benefit after applying for a permit and determining that there are no other scheduled activities. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough has not received a 2010 schedule from the Little League, Soccer League or Girls Softball League. Mr. Landy said he will meet with the Recreation Committee to discuss getting the schedules. Councilman Tucholski said he feels the Borough has lost control of the parks and feels it is necessary to meet with the Leagues to get their schedules and discuss their plans so that Council can make a decision on when they can use the parks.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurers Report for the month of March 2010:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:

Mar-10

	Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Mar10
PNC 00-0122-3513	50,127.80	337,741.25	337,869.05	50,000.00
PNC 10-1149-3394	535,905.21	106,915.32	174,939.45	467,881.08
PNC 102-457-4388	103,208.75	30.49	33,400.00	69,839.24
	30,000.00			
	10,000.00			
	10,000.00			
	19,839.24			
Standard Bank 321615	101,425.32	100,105.36	0.00	201,530.68
	40,000.00			
	40,000.00			
	56,030.68			
	50,000.00			
	13,000.00			
	2,500.00			
PLGIT 56980126	28,998.47	91,045.88	14,600.11	105,444.24
Standard Bank 242781	5,729.90	9.33	0.00	5,739.23
Standard Bank 050004849	1,798.34	0.23	0.00	1,798.57
PNC 00-0122-6415	1,390.33	72,716.41	66,062.00	8,044.74
First Niagara 981293700	1,279.13	0.00		1,279.13
PLGIT 5698025	11,250.76	0.66	0.00	11,251.42
PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Standard Bank 0010038847	612.10	0.08	0.00	612.18
PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,482.01	0.00	0.00	14,482.01
				938,753.02
Standard Bank 0320012280	260,878.09	45,505.52	92,277.63	214,105.98
Standard Bank 0050021008	18,209.70	4,530.03	0.00	22,739.73
Standard Bank 0000287245	102,667.36	25,092.03	0.00	127,759.39
	62,667.36			
	40,000.00			
				364,605.10
				1,303,358.12

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough is in better shape financially at this point in 2010 than we were in 2009.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the Treasurer’s Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

President’s Report:

President Bauer apologized to Council about the last meeting and Public Comment getting out of hand. In the future Public Comment will be one speaker at a time and each speaker will be allotted 3 minutes to speak according to our meeting rules.

President Bauer said that he agrees with Councilman Tabita that the Borough is very business friendly. The Borough has the L.E.R.T.A. program which many municipalities do not offer. As far as the development of the old Elks building in Mount Pleasant, there are not too many towns in Pennsylvania that do not require six-foot sidewalks. President Bauer went on to discuss the various problems with permits and plans for the building. President Bauer stressed the importance of citizens bringing their complaints and questions to the proper council committees who will then bring it before Council to discuss.

President Bauer reported that the Nite At The Races fireworks fundraiser that was held on April 17, 2010 was very successful. Leo Wisniewski of Grille 31 who helped organize the event presented the borough with a check in the amount of \$5,000 which was \$500 over the goal.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:50pm to 8:07pm.

President Bauer said the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that he attended a meeting with McCormick Taylor Engineers and the contractor who is doing Phase I of the Storm water Retrofit Project. Construction should begin within the next two weeks with the rain garden in the parking lot of the Municipal Building. The contract states that the work must be completed by May 31, 2010.

Mr. Landy said Council received the 2009 Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority Audit.

Mr. Landy said that the Nite At The Races raised approximately \$4,400 and Leo Wisniewski of Grille 31 wrote a check for \$5,000. The difference is Leo's contribution to the fireworks display.

Mr. Landy discussed the Concert In The Park Series for 2010. The USO Show will be June 6, 2010 Family Fun Nite with "Back In Time" will be June 20, 2010. July 3rd will feature "Switch" with a fireworks display. July 11th will be Polish Day, July 25th will be Classic Rock, August 8th will be Italian Day with "Jimmy Sapienza And 3 Guys Named Guido", August 22nd will be Mardi Gras Nite with "Coffe's Love Train", September 5th will be country music by "The Kortney Jean Band" and September 19th will be October Fest with a German band performing. Mr. Landy said that Kids Movies In The Park will be held again this year also. So far Councilwoman Stevenson and Ruskowski have signed up to handle two of the concerts. Any other council members who are interested can let Jeff know.

Mr. Landy said that Council has the Gas Well Revenue Reports for 2009 and 2010. The 2009 money has been budgeted in the 2010 General Fund Budget and the difference has been put into the Budgetary Reserve Account.

Mr. Landy said that someone came into the borough office looking for a business license to open a tattoo parlor on Main Street. Mr. Landy said we do not issue business licenses but maybe we should consider it.

Waste Water Treatment:

Councilman Tate said that WWT personnel worked on the Levin monument at the Little League Field so that it was presentable for the first Little League game. More work will be done on the monument soon.

Councilman Tate said that the sewage line on Depot Street should be completed sometime this week.

Councilman Tate said that one of the blowers broke down at the WWT Plant which was not budgeted for. Council will receive a report on the expense.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for the month of March 2010:

Total Calls	35
In Town	7
Out of Town	28
10-45's	1
10-45's Out of Town	8
Entrapment Calls	1
Fires	10
AFA's	6
Public Service	2
Flooding	3

Ambulance Assist	3
Turnpike Calls	1
Total Men Answering	448
Average Member Per Call	12
Total Hours	274

Councilman Beranek said he received a letter from Jane Altman regarding bagging the meters for special events at her business on Main Street. Ms. Altman referred to what other municipalities do and what they charge. Ms. Altman said that there could be a safety issue if there was not enough curbside parking needed for the valet. Ms. Altman would like to bag 4 meters during each event.

A discussion ensued regarding the Borough bagging the meters for businesses on Main Street. Council agreed that they must be consistent and other businesses will want the same privilege. Ms. Altman should find another solution. Mr. Landy said that if we don't bag the meters they will still park there and there may be a safety issue that will have to be addressed eventually. Councilman Tabita said that the Borough should do whatever it can to accommodate businesses in town. Councilman Tabita said he could see bagging a couple of meters in front of Ms. Altman's business and a couple on the side. A discussion ensued.

Councilman Beranek said he has three requests for handicapped parking places. The Mount Pleasant BDA is requesting a handicapped parking space in front of George & Cunningham's Hardware Store for handicapped access to the hardware store, the restaurant at The In Town Shops and Levin Furniture. Councilman Tabita said that the Handicapped meter in front of Golden Variety could be moved up to in front of George & Cunningham's. President Bauer asked Councilman Beranek to review the situation and present a recommendation to Council.

Councilman Beranek said he received requests for handicapped parking spaces at 239 Washington Street and 417 W. Main Street. President Bauer said requests are turned over to the Police Department and the cost to the resident requesting the space is \$100. And even though the resident pays the \$100 it does not prevent anyone who is handicapped from parking in the space. Councilman Beranek said he will give the requests to Police Chief Ober for his review.

Councilman Bauer said he received information on three grants for the Police Department from Officer Zilli. Mayor Lucia said that he will get Officer Zilli's input regarding the grants.

President Bauer said he looked into the Tire Program for the Police Department. There is a supplier in California PA who will ship the tires to our local dealer. President Bauer said he will give that information to the Police Department. The program also covers our Street and WWT Departments.

Councilman Beranek said that most municipalities issue business licenses and it is something the Borough may want to look into. Councilman Tabita said that our BDA taxes local businesses. Councilman Beranek said he will look into what the different purposes of the permit are for and report back to Council.

Borough Manager Landy said he received a call regarding children playing on neighborhood streets. Council said that if there are complaints they should call the Police and they will talk to the parents of the children.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for two substitute Crossing Guards on an as needed basis at the rate of \$10.06 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said he will discuss with Police Chief Ober what times the Crossing Guards have to be at the crossing. Borough Manager Landy said he spoke to Mark Cummins from the Steel Workers Union and Mr. Cummins said that if the Crossing Guards are paid for an hour they should be on duty for one hour but "past practice" prevails in these circumstances.

Councilman Tabita said that last year Council asked Police Chief Ober to contact Mount Pleasant Township to see if they are interested in paying for the use of our Police Officers when they are needed. Councilman Tabita said that Council has not heard back on that issue. Councilman Beranek said he will follow up with Chief Ober and report back to Council.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that there was a committee meeting on April 13, 2010 and it was decided that there were some changes that need to be made to the Landlord Ordinance and the Sign Ordinance.

Councilman McCloy said his committee is looking into uniform signs for the businesses on Main Street. Councilman Tabita said that he feels that it would be too complicated to get all of the businesses to agree there should be some restrictions.

Councilman McCloy said there will have to be at least one more committee meeting to make final decisions.

Mayor Lucia said he has been receiving calls about swimming pools with stagnant water breeding mosquitoes. Mayor Lucia said he will advise the Police to carry a copy of the ordinance to have available when they see a swimming pool with stagnant water.

Streets, Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Tucholski reported that he is in the process of getting quotes for a flagpole to be placed in Frick Park. He should have pricing by the end of this week.

Councilman Tucholski reminded residents that the Street Department is currently sweeping the streets and asked them to adhere to the posted signs regarding when they will need to remove their vehicles from the street.

Councilman Tucholski said that the Street Department spent a week on maintaining the playground equipment at the parks in the Borough and the bathrooms at Willows Park is open. Council agreed that Dust Bunny cleaning service will open the restrooms at 9:00am every morning seven days a week and Mayor Lucia will instruct the Police Department to lock them at dusk.

A motion was made by Councilman Tucholski to authorize the Borough Manager or himself to purchase a bucket truck for an amount up to \$9,000 when one becomes available. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said there will be a meeting of the Veterans Park Committee on Saturday April 24, 2010 at 10:30am at the Gazebo. R.K. Shumaker Memorials to discuss ideas for how to expand Veterans Wall. Everyone on council is welcome to attend the meeting and offer their ideas.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the Federal Government approved the reimbursement to the counties for costs associated with the snowstorm this winter. The Borough reimbursement should be \$29,700. Any monies we receive will go back in the Budgetary Reserve Account Contingency Fund.

Property Report:

Councilman Crivella reported that he and Nino Barsotti of the BDA met with tree trimmers about trimming the decorative trees on Main Street.

Councilman Crivella said that Nino Barsotti of the BDA would like to meet with Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Tucholski to discuss when the Street Department will be painting the cross walks on Main Street and improving some of the signage. The BDA would like to see some directional signs for parking. Councilman Tate said that part of the reason the Borough is purchasing a bucket Truck is so that they can trim the trees on Main Street instead of

hiring a professional tree trimmer. Councilman Crivella said that since the trees are owned by the property owner the Borough will have to get permission to trim them.

President Bauer said that he is going to meet with Borough Manager Landy to discuss a reorganization of the BDA. Councilman Tabita said that members of the BDA stand to improve their own businesses by bringing new business into the Borough and making Main Street more attractive. Also, it is important that they aggressively try to sell The In Town Shops.

President Bauer said that he would like to see more progress on the Welcome To Mount Pleasant signs.

President Bauer asked Councilman Beranek to look at a tree at Hitchman & Washington Streets that may be a safety hazard.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that in the first quarter of 2010 the Borough recycled more than 30 tons.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that he attended a Frick Communities meeting last week. A decision will have to be made by each community whether they are willing to contribute funds to the Frick Communities even though no government funding will be available. Councilman Tabita said that the Frick Communities received recognition from Governor Rendell for inter-municipality cooperation. Councilman Tabita said the Assistant Director of the DCNR was present at the Frick Communities meeting and they asked for a statement in writing that whatever money each community contributes without government funding is applied 100% as our contribution when funding becomes available. President Bauer said that it would require a motion. The solicitor for the Frick Communities is looking into amending the by-laws providing for the communities to stay together not conditional on government funding.

Councilman Tabita said that now that the Mount Pleasant video is complete we are looking into selling local businesses a 15 second slot inside the Borough 30 second slot. We will now begin editing the beginning and end of the 30-second slot. The cost to the business would be \$300 for 300 ads plus production which is \$500 - \$800.

Councilman Tabita said that the Borough received a letter from the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County. The letter states that for the time period from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 the RACW has completed two demolition projects in the Borough. 524 Main Street (DiNicola property) and a one-story residential dwelling at 320 Warden Street with a total cost of \$15,441.00. 211 East Main Street (Gormley Building) is scheduled for demolition in either June or July with a cost estimate of \$50,000. Mr. Landy said he spoke with Bert Getto of the Redevelopment Authority and he stated that his department is waiting to hear from the Bureau of Historic Preservation for the process to be completed in order for the Gormley building to be demolished.

President Bauer said that all of council received an invitation to the 2010 Annual Firemen's Banquet on Saturday May 1, 2010.

President Bauer asked Council for a decision regarding Mr. Rick Albright's request to have a 5K race on the Sunday of the Glass & Ethnic Festival. The race would be a fundraiser for the Mount Pleasant Junior Football League. Councilman Beranek said that he feels it may be too disruptive with all of the churches on the route and church services being held. Councilman Beranek said he will schedule a meeting with Mr. Albright and the Councilman Tucholski to discuss it.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the Employee Handbook has been completed. The Employee Handbook was collaboration between Councilwoman Stevenson, Borough Manager Landy and Tucker Arensberg Attorneys. All of council has been provided with a copy of the handbook. Councilwoman Stevenson asked everyone to read the handbook and call her with any questions or concerns. A motion can be made at the next meeting to approve the handbook.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Historical Society would like to use some of the young people who will be in town this summer doing volunteer work through the Mount Pleasant Church of God to do some landscaping at the Log Cabins on Washington Street. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Mount Pleasant Public Library could use them to do some landscaping too.

Borough Manager Landy said that there will be a meeting of the G3 participants at the Laurelville Mennonite Camp tomorrow evening at 6:00pm. Mr. Landy would like council members to come to the meeting for information as well as to lend their support.

Councilman Tate said that WWT Supervisor Norm Stout went to a seminar and learned of an organization that has been formed that has a share-program where a municipality that needs a piece of equipment can go to another municipality and contract their personnel and equipment instead of going to a sub-contractor.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- There will be a Down Town Parking Solutions Workshop at Greensburg City Hall on April 28, 2010 from 9am to 3pm. The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person.
- The 8th Annual Awards Dinner for Smart Growth Partnership will be held May 27, 2010. The cost is \$50 per person. There will be tables of six. The deadline for registration is May 14, 2010.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:35pm

Motions from April 19, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of April 5, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to have the Street Department tear down and remove the carport at 18 Eagle Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-2. Councilman Tabita and Councilwoman Stevenson voted no.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to have the Recreation Committee meet with R.O.C.K. Ministries to offer them the use of the Veterans Park Freedom of Speech Area or one of the other parks in the Borough to R.O.C.K. Ministries to hold a benefit after applying for a permit and determining that there are no other scheduled activities. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

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